

Focus on Fifth

Weekly News for Holmes Fifth-Grade Families

News and Events in the 5th Grade

February 4, 2013

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Important Dates

Feb 1 - Feb 22	MathCon
February 4	Colonial America Unit Test
February 9	PTO Pancake Breakfast
February 12	BRAVO Showcase performance
February 18	No School
February 20	ISAT Info Night
February 22	Causes of the American Revolution Project Due

Dear Families,

Celebrating Conferences!

It was wonderful to visit with all of you during conferences last week. Students did a phenomenal job presenting what they are learning, and how they can improve in each area. Important forms for the transition to 6th grade were given out at conferences. If you need additional copies, or misplace them, we have posted them on the 5th grade wiki for your convenience.

GAME DAY! New for 3rd-8th graders

All day (8:00am-3:00pm), Monday, March 4 (no school, Casimir Pulaski Day), 3rd-5th grade kids will have the opportunity to participate in a Game Day at Julian Middle School. Students will construct their own mini-golf course out of LEGOs, play improv games to make each other laugh, create an artsy board game to take home, and cut loose with games in the gym. There will be pizza or sack lunch option. This program is limited to first 80 kids in 3rd/4th/5th grade, and 20 kids in 6th/7th/8th grade. The cost is \$60, but limited number of scholarships are also available.

SPECIAL AREA SUBJECTS

Art - Students are studying Islamic Art. Islamic Art is known for having beautiful non-representational patterns and radial balance. To create artwork inspired by Islamic Art, we have turned ordinary drawing erasers into stamps. While the stamps are cool, when they are repeated over and over again new shapes emerge and the results are awesome!

Music - [Check out the website!](#) We did our playing test on the song "Ah Poor Bird" last week. The music is posted on the website on the recorder link to the left. If a student is nervous to play wants to retest or try the challenge, they may make a video recording of themselves playing the song and email it to me at akaria@op97.org. I will also be available during lunch on Thursday for those students who can't record themselves.

Chorus - Your child will be getting a form on Monday about chorus T-shirts and a chorus performance for a Chicago Wolves game. It is essential that we find out how many children are performing for the

Wolves game as soon as possible so please fill out the information and return it to Mrs. Karia this week.

Spanish - We have started a new story, *Carlos y los Tres Monstruos*. It will be posted on the Spanish blog for students to read to someone for 10 extra points.: <http://www.mpoleski.blogspot.com/>

Library - For more on library happenings, please keep up with us on the library home page (<http://www.op97.org/holmes/mediacenter/>).

Physical Education - Please see Mr. Williams' link (www.d97mrwilliams.blogspot.com) for information.

Reading/Literature

This week we will continue our novel study on Johnny Tremain by Esther Forbes. Students have chosen their own historical fiction books to read as we focus on comparing and contrasting texts within the same genre. We are running low on sticky notes (which students use during read to self) and are asking for donations. Thank you!

Language Arts

This week in language arts we will teach lessons on keyboarding/computer skills, as well as give students time to practice their typing in class. We will continue working on short project focusing on voice using the Preamble to the Constitution.

Math

Most students have completed the Unit 8 test. Graded tests and a self-assessment will be returned to students by the end of the week. When the test and self-assessment come home, please review both with your child, sign the self-assessment and have your child return the self-assessment back to his/her math teacher. Students will receive 5 Guilders for returning a signed self-assessment.

This week, we begin a unit on area and volume. The majority of the lessons will be from Unit 9, which is in volume 2 of the Journal. We will start by reviewing area concepts and developing a formula for calculating area of a rectangle, triangle and parallelogram. On Wednesday, we will discuss problem solving and work on a extended response problem. There will be a short quiz on Friday covering the concepts we learned during the week.

Science

In science this week, we will conduct an experiment that requires teams to build a small airplane and run it across a length of fishing line four meters long. Students will identify independent and dependent variables and will graph the results (distance) of changing the number of turns of the propeller. Our lab will take place on Tuesday. We will remind students who miss a lab due to chorus that they are responsible for obtaining the data from a team member. Please be sure to check in with your student about their progress on the science fair project.

Social Studies

We begin this week with our Colonial America Unit Assessment. The remainder of the week (and over the course of the next three weeks), students will work independently to research one of the causes of the American Revolution. Students will take the information they collect and create a news article, as well as an editorial, on their topic. Towards the end of the project, students will get into a group and teach each other about the different causes, while also compiling their articles into a newspaper. This will be a mostly in-class project; however, it may require some additional work to be done at home depending on how wisely students spend their time in class.

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